

# DE News

**January 25, 2002 – Iowa Department of Education – Ted Stilwill, Director**

## **Legislative update**

State leaders and lawmakers continue to meet and discuss key issues - including funding for priority areas during this time when revenues continue to decline. Among the top items legislators plan to act quickly on are the state foundation aid formula (allowable growth rate) for both fiscal 03 and fiscal 04. As a reminder, Governor Vilsack has called for the fiscal 03 rate to be revised to 1% with a \$59 million appropriation and one-year flexibility to generate more local revenue if needed. The allowable growth rate for fiscal 04 is recommended to be 3%, about \$77 million.

Another key item this year will be modifications to the Teacher Quality legislation passed last year. As noted last week, those changes likely will include adjustments to the career paths, evaluation process, and requirements for more contract days. Proceeding more slowly allows for an easier implementation, maintains the original intent, and helps districts better understand potential benefits prior to expansion in future years.

Director of the DE Ted Stilwill spoke to both the House and Senate Education Committees on Wednesday, providing them updates on the DE structure and responsibilities, a summary of the federal ESEA legislation, and an update on the Teacher Quality legislation. He also highlighted the State Board of Education priorities: Increasing state foundation funding for K-12, AEAs and community colleges; providing local community college boards the ability to increase the board approved levy from its current 10 ¼ cent limit; continuing support for the Teacher Quality program; and funding the Department of Education to fulfill its responsibilities.

## **Community College licensure may change**

An early bill eliminating licensure of community college faculty has been introduced as HSB518. The language stems in part from a legislatively mandated study that the DE and Board of Educational Examiners conducted last year.

## **Kirkwood President earns national honor**

Kirkwood Community College President Dr. Norm Nielsen has earned the 2001 Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer Award from the Association of Community College Trustees. The ACCT noted Nielsen's central role as a leader in developing public/private partnerships and growing the level and scope of Kirkwood's influence in local, national and international services.

## **State Board of Education briefs**

- The State Board hosted a legislative reception January 17 to meet with legislators and discuss priorities.
- Passed recommended rule changes to Chapter 36, "Extracurricular Interscholastic Competition" and Chapter 37, "Extracurricular Athletic Activity Conference for Public School Districts & Accredited Nonpublic Schools" and Chapter 17, "Open Enrollment." The proposed amendments enhance the opportunities available to otherwise-eligible transfer

students without prejudicing other students or their schools, and eliminate discretionary interpretation of the rules. The proposal now goes to the Administrative Rules Review Committee. Also passed recommended rules for model criteria for teaching standards established by the SF 476, the Teacher Quality legislation. Both can be reviewed at : <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Rules/2002/iac/gnac/gna1.pdf>

###

***Iowa Department of Education Mission:  
“Helping communities meet the learning needs of all of their children and adults”***

*DE News* provides timely information about legislative and policy issues, grants and funding, trends in education, and other items of immediate interest to Iowa educators and policymakers. Contact Kathi Slaughter, 515/281-5651; fax 515/281-4122; email [kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us).